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Muzket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Vol. XXXIX, Issue I Sept. 2006

Jana Qiao

Pedestrians walk the white lines across Massachusetts Avenue.

Walk The Line:

Rating Our Town s Crosswalks

By Ann Wang

The Minuteman Statue, the Battle Green, the Buckman Tavern—timeless pieces of this nation's history. But let's go on a tour of a different sort, winding through one of Lexington's most underappreciated features: crosswalks. With broad white diagonal stripes these year-round fixtures are truly a bridge over the troubled waters of hectic Lexington traffic. Now to take a look at some of these unsung heroes of the pedestrian battlefields:

Best New Addition:

The entrance to Diamond Middle School, right before Burlington St. and Blake Rd. converge into Hancock St.

"I've nearly died crossing [Blake Road] many times before the crosswalk was put in," says a current LHS senior. A mere $7,000 investment gets two reflective 'pedestrian crossing' signs, repaved sidewalks, handicapped-accessible ramps, white paint, and the assurance that many more middle-schoolers will survive to eventually grace the halls of LHS as freshmen.

Most Aesthetically Pleasing:

The intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Waltham St. in the center.

Helpful pedestrian crossing lights, quaint Olde Towne style posts, and the kind men inside the green poles who prepare you to "walk across Massachusetts Avenue and Waltham Street," combine to give this crossing a distinctive charm.

Greatest Volume:

Lexington Center

The crosswalks in our pedestrian-friendly center number over twenty-three. Nine crosswalks clutter Mass Ave between Cary Library and

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Conflict In Middle East Hits Lexington Student

By Sasha Wilson

Recently, there has been turbulence in the Middle East. A conflict between Israel and Lebanon was sparked by the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by Muslim terrorist organization Hezbollah.

Comprised of Muslim extremists, Hezbollah operates out of Lebanon, and receivees support from Syria and Iran.

The organization performs services for the Muslim minority of the primarily Christian Lebanon, such as the construction of hospitals and wells.

In response to the kidnapping, Israel bombed roads and strategic targets in Lebanon with the aim of crippling Hezbollah.

Unfortunately, Hezbollah is based out of civilian communities, leading to an unusually high civilian death toll.

Ben Carter

Avital Benedek witnessed the Israeli - Hezbollah confilict up close and personal this past summer.

Hezbollah responded to Israeli attacks by firing Katyusha rockets into Northern Israel, hitting the large city of Haifa. Israel staged a ground invasion.

Avital Benedek, an LHS senior, was in Israel, traveling with a group of American students during the outbreak of this conflict. For the first portion of her stay, Benedek stayed in the Hostel Beitschmuel, minutes from the Old City of Jerusalem. The group's travels then took her north. They visited Golan, and stayed at a Moschad, a village where people farm and perform other tasks to keep the community afloat. This moschad was in the area that was hit by the Katyusha rockets.

Luckily, Benedek and her group were no longer in the north when fighting erupted. Her group had hiked from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean and then gone south to the Negev desert.

Benedek says "We could hear the cannons booming, but weren't sure what it was."

Reflecting upon her stay in the desert, she says "Although we were still separated from civilization, we could hear the Israeli jets flying to Lebanon to bomb.

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Community Service Still Up In the Air

By Eric Eid-Reiner

The community service requirements and procedures currently in place at LHS are under review and some are gradually beginning to change.

The LHS Student-Faculty Senate unanimously passed a resolution last November that stated, "The Lexington High School Community Service Program desperately requires reform."

The resolution established a Community Service Committee that was charged with examining current guidelines and providing recommendations regarding the program.

The committee noted five problems with the program as it now stands: lack of reflection on service reformed, failure to support students struggling to meet the community service requirements, failure to live up to the original spirit of the program, unsatisfactory structures for resolving disagreement, and oversight and dishonesty.

The committee recommended that Class Councils, the National Honors Society, and the Senate Social Action Committee expand the scope and number of community service projects they organize.

It was additionally recommended that the school reinstate the stipended position of Community Service Facilitator, which would publicize community service opportunities and aid students in need of projects. However, such a proposal cannot be legislated by Senate because it involves school budget.

> ***"The Lexington High School Community Service Program desperately requires reform."***
>
> *Community Service Committee Report*

The Senate has implemented one recommendation thus far, revising guidelines to allow students to receive community service credit for participation in class service projects. The 1989 Class Service Project Bill requires each class council to sponsor at least one such event every academic year.

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FEATURES

Unscrambling the SAT/ACT Jumble

By Toni Maeck

Today's jumble: TACATS

Unscramble the letters and see what you get.

What you get is another jumble: the two standardized tests we know as the SAT and the ACT.

Actually, the tests are not completely jumbled together. They are different in some distinct ways:

- The ACT is three hours long; the SAT is three hours and forty-five minutes.

-The SAT has a quarter point guessing penalty; the ACT does not.

-The SAT has ten sections; the ACT has four.

-The Math section of the SAT goes through Algebra II and basic geometry, while the ACT adds trigonometry and more advanced math topics.

-The ACT's English section stresses grammar rules and punctuation, while the SAT places greater emphasis on vocabulary and word choice.

-The SAT's English section requires an essay, while an essay is optional in the ACT.

Take the quiz below. Did you get 4 out of 4? It doesn't matter because whichever test you choose to take, neither one completely reflects you as a person or as a college candidate. As Bates College vice president William Hiss said, "Human intelligence and ambition is more complex, more multifaceted than any standardized testing system can capture."

So when life gives you jumbles, make jambalaya.

What else is there to know about the SAT and the ACT? Try this True-or-False (standardized) test:

1) Only Southern schools accept the ACT. True/False
(False. Virtually all American colleges who accept the SAT also accept the ACT, with or without the optional writing section depending on differing requirements.)

2) The ACT is easier than the SAT. True/False
(False. It depends on what you're good at. The ACT is a content based test, and the SAT is a problem-solving test. In other words, the ACT primarily tests what you learned in school, while the SAT tests how you sort through this information. The ACT has fewer "tricky" questions, and fewer distractors.)

3) Taking the ACT means you don't have to take SAT IIs. True/False
(False. While some schools allow the ACT to take place of two or three SAT II exams, many schools require both. Check with the individual schools you are applying to.)

4) You have to be good at science to do well on the ACT. True/False
(False. The ACT's science section tests your science reasoning, not your ability to recall specific biology facts or chemical equations. The ACT is concerned with the way you utilize the scientific method and are able to understand tables and graphs.)

Look familiar? Standardized testing has many LHS students stressed out.

Emerson Markets New Brand of College Radio

By Danny Metzger-Traber

Emerson College, located in downtown Boston, is a training ground for aspiring thespians, disc jockeys, and drama teachers. The school's radio station, WERS 88.9 FM, is a blend of professionalism and student idealism. Although the hosts of the various programs may change with the semester, the listener knows that he or she can always expect the quality to remain unwavering.

There are no play lists on WERS, just the musical tastes of the young individuals who work at the station. A quick scan of the program list shows how eclectic the music truly is. Depending on the time of day or day of the week, the genre will change entirely. On weekdays, you can start off the morning with The Coffeehouse, a mixture of modern and traditional folk and acoustic music, and then continue the day with Jazz, world music, and local hip hop. Their programs run the gamut from show tunes on Standing Room Only, to All A Cappella, to electronica on Revolutions. No matter the music taste of a particular listener, WERS delivers programs that satisfy.

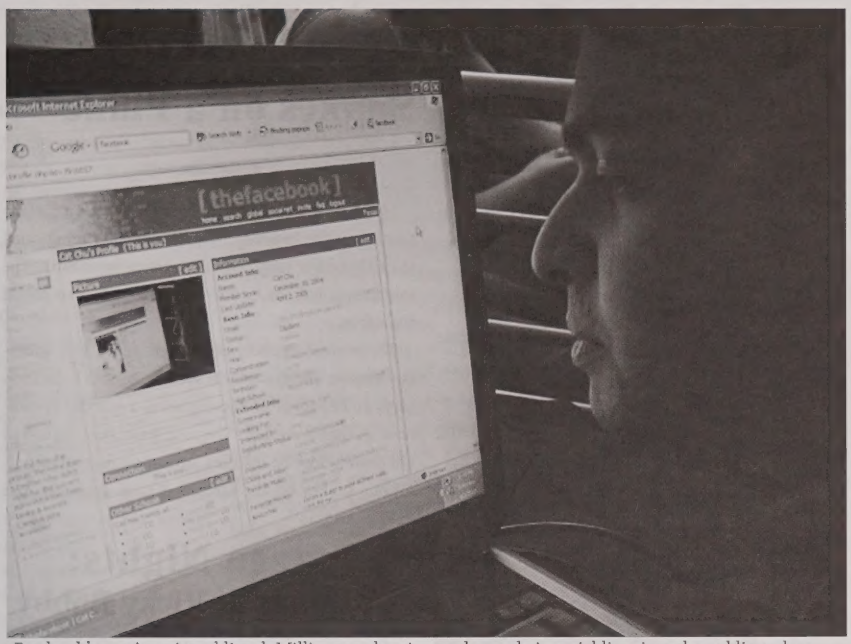
One of the station's chief attributes is that they have managed to maintain a quality radio station in a highly competitive Boston market while remaining a student training ground. Other university stations are that only in name, retaining an entirely professional staff, or alternatively, stations are entirely student-run, lacking the discipline to appeal to an off-campus audience. If you haven't tuned in to 88.9 before, you might want to change your radio presets. After listening to the usual Jam'n, Kiss, or Mix, you'll find Emerson Radio to be a breath of fresh air that is sure to broaden your musical horizons.

got ideas?

Send in your letters, photography, comments, cartoons and what ever else you can scrounge up . . .

Leave it in the Musket Mailbox in the library or e-mail it to *themusket@gmail.com*

EDITORIALS



Facebook's got America addicted. Millions are logging to throw their social lives into the public realm.

A Letter to Facebook

By Garth Goldwater

Dear Facebook,

Screw you. You've stolen my time and violated my privacy. You've even given my future employers an opportunity to determine my merits based on the grouped I've joined and the movies I like (in addition to my interview, resume and actual credentials). I know all this, and yet, I continue to stay constantly logged on. Mark Zuckerberg is my pusher.

I've been your loyal devotee ever since I found you, and you've counted my "friends" into the triple digits. You help me keep in touch with acquaintances in other states. I give you nothing but love (above comments excluded) and you just leave me disappointed again and again.

Why do you feel the need to constantly update your features with newer and better tools for me to ignore or only use sarcastically? Like the Pulse?! Don't give me that junk! I thought you were better than this! (I don't care if The Brave Little Toaster is in the top 10 coolest movies to like at Lexington High School, it will remain dear to my heart as the most amazing anthropomorphized appliance adventure ever told.)

And what's up with this political stuff, with everyone posting their "political views" and labeling themselves as "conservative" or "liberal" for their friends? I thought that being under eighteen would spare me the brunt of the political targeting, but now you're selling yourself to the politicians, the man himself? Have some respect for yourself. There's no reason the new "campaign issues" feature couldn't just be handled by groups.

Are you feeling inadequate because Myspace has all sorts of fancy features and is ahead of you in the internet rankings? You two need to stop bickering. You are unique. Myspace doesn't even pretend to serve a useful function. On the other hand, you, my dear, can be easily used for legitimate purposes – from the excellent event feature to your ability to store unlimited photos off of my computer. I once heard of a kid who used someone's wall to ask about a homework assignment.

Then there are your ads! Not only are they hideous – they aren't even targeted! Am I not worth your time? Would you like to make any money? I don't know anyone who's in high school that needs to refinance their mortgage.

I have never punched that dancing monkey for a free gift nor am I inclined to receive my MBA from the University of Phoenix. I don't need any more ring tones. Let the salesman peddle their goods elsewhere; we'll all be happier for it.

And then there's the matter of this new "news feed." Tough luck for those who don't enjoy reading picture comments swapped between two loose acquaintances.

You force me to shout out to the whole world on my mini-feed that I decided to add "objects that jingle" to my interests and then deleted it ten minutes later. My every social-networking move has been cast into the spotlight.

Oh, the confusion! The pictures of the good times – those are somewhere under a pile of drinking photos and drunken peer foolery. The text is mind numbing, and the scintilla of worthwhile information has been irreversibly stewed in a broth of time-stamped gossip. In fact, most of my news feed is currently filled with messages about my friends joining "I hate the news feed" groups.

This isn't to say I'm leaving. Oh, heavens, no. I'm not ready to end this relationship. With late nights and procrastination opportunities in my not-so-distant future, the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,
Garth Goldwater

American Ignorance

Isolationism in the international century

By Arjun Ramamurti

An old joke describes a worldwide survey conducted by the United Nations which asked various countries to give their honest opinion about solutions to food shortage in the rest of the world. Those in Europe couldn't answer because they didn't know what "shortage" meant. Those in the Middle East couldn't answer because they didn't know what "solution" meant. And those in the United States couldn't answer because they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

This sentiment has never been truer. Despite a war on terror that has made millions of Americans familiar with such places as the Tora Bora Mountains in Afghanistan, the average American still shows little desire to explore or learn about the unfamiliar. And increasingly, the unfamiliar is becoming anywhere not the U.S. or Europe. A survey conducted by the Asia Society in 2001 found that 80% of American adults and students could not identify India, the second-most populated country in the world, on a map. In fact, only 25% of college-bound high school students could name the body of water that separates the United States from Asia (the Pacific Ocean). These frightening results left room for only one conclusion, that "young people in particular are dangerously uninformed about the rest of the world, subject to a kind of educational isolationism that ill-equips them to meet the demands of an international, interconnected century."

I personally encountered this willful ignorance over the summer, when I spent a month and a half in India. There were a fairly large number of non-Indian visitors in the country, and whenever I saw a group of them, I would sidle over to listen to their accents. Not a single time did I hear the familiar American drawl. Instead, I heard a great variety of European accents accompanied by Chinese, Japanese and Australian tongues. And with few exceptions, these tourists showed a remarkable interest in delving deeper into Indian society. Rather than staying in five-star hotels and leaving only to visit similarly expensive restaurants, they participated eagerly in prayers at the temple, ate cross-legged on the floor off of a banana leaf with other Indians, and even wore Indian clothing.

> ***"The Average American shows little desire to explore or learn about the unfamiliar."***

A 2004 study by the US Department of Commerce confirms Americans' frightening lack of imagination. The top three travel destinations for Americans were Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Only two countries on the top ten were outside of North America or Europe (China was sixth and Japan was ninth), and even this is misleading; eighteen times more people went to Canada than to China. While proximity is certainly a factor, a closer look at the top ten shows that only 6% of travelers selecting a destination on that list would choose China or Japan.

So why pay attention to the rest of the world amidst ostensible American supremacy in world standings?

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ten New Fall Music Picks

By Rivka Barrett

Fall is the time for great music. Check out these ten fall albums. Who knows, maybe one of them will get you through first semester.

"Modern Times" by Bob Dylan (8/29)
The album some critics are hailing as Dylan's masterwork has landed this 65-year-old legend a number one spot on the charts. Plagiarism accusations notwithstanding.

The times have changed for Bob Dylan.

"Respect M.E." by Missy Elliot (9/4)
Honestly, nothing's ever going to sound as good as "Get Your Freak On."

"Voice of the Violin" by Joshua Bell (9/5)
Violinist Joshua Bell rocks the G-string beautifully on his newest release.

"Revelations" by Audioslave (9/5)
The instrumentalists from Rage Against the Machine hope to finally find their groove in this supergroup's third studio album.

"A Matter of Life and Death" by Iron Maiden (9/5)
After 30 years, we can still count on Iron Maiden to put out a concept album about war.

"FutureSex/LoveSounds" by Justin Timberlake (9/12)
Justin's bringing SexyBack with his second major post-N'Sync release.

"I Am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass" by Yo La Tengo (9/12)
The indie trio from New Jersey snuck a sample of their new album onto last season's Gilmore Girls finale.

"Release Therapy" by Ludacris (9/26)
Atlanta-based rapper Ludacris' much anticipated new album features Mary J. Blige, R. Kelly, and a big ol' dose of Southern comfort.

"The Crane Wife" by the Decemberists (10/3)
The band's first release on a major label (Capitol) will hopefully be just as delightfully weird as their work on indie label Kill Rock Stars.

"Endless Wire" by The Who (10/31)
Townsend and company are still rocking. Even 24 years after their last studio album, fans are still eager to hear The Who's defiant brand of music.

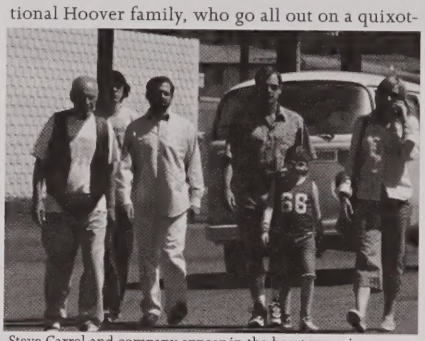
Summer at the Cinema

Little Miss Sunshine

By Danny Metzger-Traber

Little Miss Sunshine is unquestionably the critically acclaimed indie darling of the summer. One wouldn't expect a movie with references to Marcel Proust and Friedrich Nietzsche to be so universally accessible, yet Little Miss Sunshine manages to be just that. It's one of those uncommon independent films that manages appeal to the movei-going masses without compromising its personal feeling and indie integrity

Directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris explore the perils and redemption of being losers in America. The story centers on the dysfunctional Hoover family, who go all out on a quixotic quest to help Olive, the youngest child, fulfill her dream of becoming a Beauty Pageant winner. Their trip is a hilarious odyssey, fraught with obstacles and self-discovery, and laced throughout with humor.



Steve Carrel and company appear in the heart warming American film Little Miss Sunshine

The all-star cast which includes Toni Collette, Alan Arkin, and Greg Kinnear delivers a powerful performance. Steve Carrell, who plays the gay, suicidal, Proust scholar and uncle to Olive, displays his acting chops in a very different way than we've become accustomed to in The Office and Forty Year Old Virgin.

This movie is one of those rare gems that is able to evoke the whole spectrum of emotions from the viewer. With its generational appeal and its ultimately uplifting view of family, Little Miss Sunshine is bound to become a film classic.

Snakes on a Plane

By Lily Barrett

Much of the hype surrounding Snakes on a Plane started on the Internet. When an insider mentioned the title in his blog, other bloggers went nuts. The excitement led the cast to re-shoot scenes to please their fans.

The result? Buckets of R-rated gore, sex, gross-out humor, and fast action scenes. Samuel L. Jackson plays an FBI agent protecting Sean, a murder eyewitness, as they fly to L.A. The murderer, determined to kill Sean before he testifies, unloads a myriad of poisonous snakes on the aircraft. Chaos abounds, and the fun begins!

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby

By Rivka Barrett

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby, starring Will Ferrell, features one-dimensional characters, wooden acting, and crude humor. Bad movie, right? Wrong! These attributes make Talladega Nights a success, painting a satiric portrait of NASCAR drivers and their personal lives.

Will Ferrell plays a big-shot NASCAR star, Ricky Bobby. With two handsome little trash-mouthed sons and a trophy wife, Bobby has a perfect life. After a racing accident, he loses everything and moves back in with his mother. He then prepares a comeback race against his archrival, a gay Frenchman. A good flick for cheap laughs and wild popcorn-throwing.

Musket

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NEWS/FEATURES

American Ignorance

Continued from Page 3

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Landscaping Projects Improve Town Center

By Ann Wang

When's the last time you took a good look at all the new landscaping projects going on in the center? Probably not recently. But a lot of people are working really hard to improve the environment where many high-school kids hang out.

Take the mulching that's been going on near the bike path behind CVS – a large section of grass between the bike path and the parking lot has been replaced with mulch, a set of granite steps has been built into the hillside, and a crosswalk was painted through the parking lot.

In other parts of the center, red bricks have replaced dirt alleyways leading to the bike path.

Fletcher Ave, next to the police station, is blocked off and being completely repaved.

These improvements are part of an ongoing number of projects planned for the center. All the projects are planned out and decided upon by the Center Committee, a citizens' group run by the businesses in the center.

Bobby Hertig

Money well spent? Lexington High students lounge on the new granite steps behind CVS. Check out that mulch job.

The fraction of Lexington's budget allotted during the 2007 fiscal year for municipal works is around $25.1 million. In comparison, the budget for education is $66.5 million and the total budget for Lexington is $143.0 million.

Reviewing Lexington s Crosswalks

Continued from Page 1

The Minuteman Statue, the Battle Green, the Buckman Tavern—timeless pieces of this nation's history. But let's go on a tour of a different sort, winding through one of Lexington's most underappreciated features: crosswalks. With broad white diagonal stripes these year-round fixtures are truly a bridge over the troubled waters of hectic Lexington traffic. Now to take a look at some of these unsung heroes of the pedestrian battlefields:

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Jana Qiao

Pedestrians on Lexington's most charming crosswalk.

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The intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Waltham St. in the center.

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Greatest Volime:

Community Service

Continued from Page 1

The Senate passed a resolution last May thanking the Community Service Committee for the report, and called upon the Senate Communications Committee to publicize it.

The resolution ended, "The Senate calls on the Administration and faculty to begin discussion of the report's recommendations and work expeditiously to reform the current community service program."

No consensus exists as to the respective roles of the administration, the student body, the faculty, and the Senate in the revision of current community service program.

Senators and Administrators have both stated that input from all involved parties is necessary in improving current policies.

For an explanation of current community service guidelines, see http://lhs.lexingtonma.org/senate/comserv.html. The full report of the Community Service Committee, including the results of a survey it conducted last year on the community service experiences can be found in the LHS library and in other major offices in the school.

Student in Middle East

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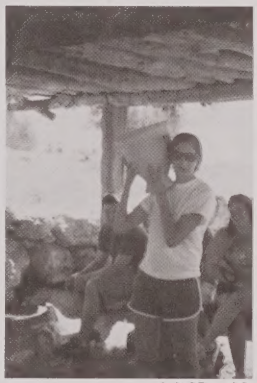


Avital Benedek

Benedeck shoulders a bucket in the heat of Israel's Negev Desert.

Always at night you could hear them passing over."

In a country where every teenager goes into the army (girls for one year and boys for three) Benedek says, "Every person we met had a connection to the army. People were scared for their friends and family, not for their personal lives."

Because of the limited range of the Hezbollah missiles, only the people in combat on the ground or in the very north of the country were in any real danger.

Benedek explains that visiting Israel was a poignant expereince. On one hand, she explains, "[The war] enhanced our experience. People we didn't know would ask us to say prayers and it was impressive to see people so devoted to keeping Israel going."

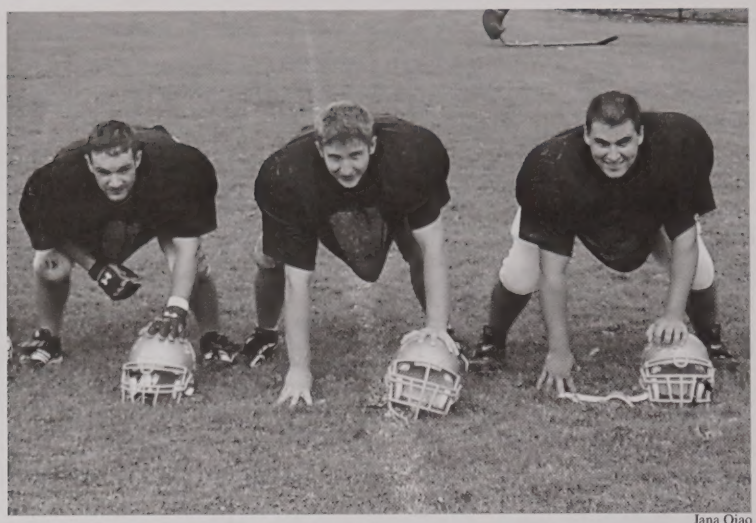
Seeing people unite for a cause is touching, but wartime is frightening as well. Israel is a country with a constant military presence. Every Israeli has friends and family who are in the service.

> ***"People we didn t know would ask us to say prayers... "***
>
> *Avital Benedek*

"One of our counselors was called out of the reserves into combat. The first time he was about to be sent out into Lebanon, he had a torn ACL so they postponed his deployment. The second time, the truck didn't have enough helmets and there wasn't a helmet for him so he wasn't deployed. He came back to our group and we realized what being at war really meant."

Although the conflict has been grim, Benedek keeps up hope.

SPORTS



Jana Qiao

Anchoring the line for the football team this year are (l to r) Aaron Yengo-Kahn, Andrew Alspaugh, and Trevor Keenan.

Football Looking Strong

After dropping an overtime squeaker to non-league opponent Westford,10-7, in their first game, the football team has since run off three decisive victories. The gridders have defeated Concord-Carlisle, 6-3, as well as Middlesex League rivals Melrose, 30-15, and Belmont, 20-12. Against Melrose it was an explosive offense that carried the day while in the Concord and Belmont games it was the Minutemen's relentlesss defense that rose to the occasion. The first defensive unit has surrendered only one touchdown so far this season.

The offense has relied on the brilliant passing of Ross Curley and the receiving of two of his key targets, Darius Walker and Matt Cunha. On the ground, sophomore tailback Brian Walsh has been the workhorse, running up nearly one hundred yards in the Belmont game alone. In addition, fullback Peter Krensky has added some valuable yardage as well as outstanding play on the other side of the ball.

Likewise, sophomore Marc Patrick has been invaluable as the team's place kicker in booting a number of key extra points. The steadily improving offensive line has been anchored by Misha Romasko, Brendan Casey, Dan Popiel, Andrew Alspaugh and Jack Barons. On defense the outstanding play of Popiel, Alspaugh, Krensky, Nick Pisegna, Kevin Wu, and Trevor Kennan among others, has proven to be the difference, especially in shutting down the high powered Belmont offense.

Prior to the season longtime LHS Football Coach Bill Tighe was not entirely sure what his squad would be capable of. Compared to their league opponents, the Minutemen were small in size but the coaches believed that their exceptional team speed would help neutralize this. factor in the squad success.

Soccer Team Ranked High

By Arjun Gokhale

Three days after the Boston Globe named the Lexington boys soccer team the top ranked squad in Eastern Massachusetts, the Minutemen dropped their first contest to Woburn by a score of 6-2. Prior to that, the highly regarded boys had run up eleven straight wins including decisive victories over such traditional league powers as Stoneham and Winchester. The team had accomplished this string of victories on the stellar play of such veterans as Alex Lach, Bryan Longo, Andy Wright, Marshall Collins, and Eric Driscoll among others.

Prior to the Woburn defeat, in addition to the teams mentioned above, the boys had bested Middlesex League rivals Melrose (twice), Wakefield, Watertown, Reading, Burlington, Belmont (twice), and Woburn in an earlier match. So far this season the goal keeping duties have been held down primarily by Jasper Disko, with Zack Abu-Glass subbing in periodically.

Going into this season the Minutemen were very optimistic of their prospects of winning the Middlesex League title and advancing quite far in the post-season tournament. Last year the booters reached the Division One semifinals, beating the top ranked Framingham team along the way. With many experienced players returning Coach Dan Rudolph is looking forward to this season with great enthusiasm.

After a spectacular run during the 2005 season that left the Minutemen on the short side of a Emass semifinal against a powerful Acton-Boxboro team, the boys are hoping to go all the way to the state finals this year. Although the team is loaded with talent they will be looking to Co-captain Alex Lach to lead the way. Lach has been a serious presence on the soccer scene at LHS since his sophomore year and this season should see him rise to the elite level in Eastern Massachusetts.

Lach's exceptional speed was most evident during the track seasons last year. In fact, he and soccer teammate Longo were on a relay team that reached the high school nationals. In preparing himself for this year's soccer season Lach set a brutal regiment for himself over the summer. He called it "the most intense of my high school career." So it will be on the shoulders of Lach and his fellow veterans that the ultimate success of the soccer season will rest.

Offbeat Athlete of the Month: Eric You

By Arjun Gokhale

If Terrell Owens played badminton, chances are he'd be a lot like Eric You. Owens is a man of eccentricities, known for disagreeing and acting out against his coaches, but in the end, he delivers.

You started playing badminton at age nine when his father, a badminton semipro, introduced him to the sport. After excelling on the court, he quit three years later, citing irreconcilable differences with his Coach, Kirill Boyarin. You felt that he was not getting the attention he deserved and doubted the expertise of Boyarin.

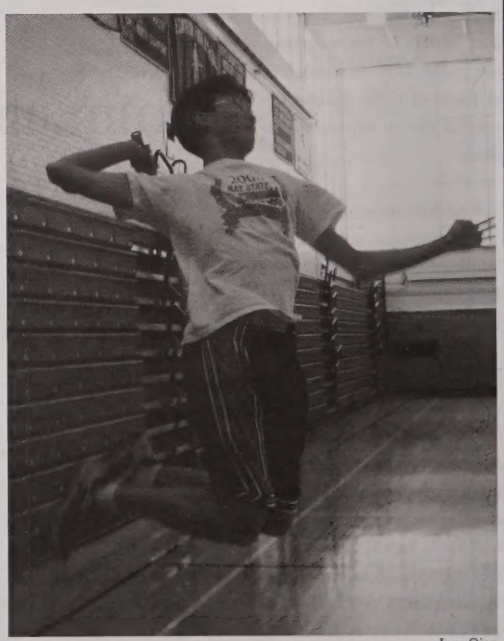
However, a couple of years later, You began to miss the competitive nature of the sport and witnessed a vast improvement in the play of his former teammates. That was enough to convince him to rejoin under the tutelage of Boyarin at the Maugus training club in Wellesley.

In the past few years, You has been wildly successful under Boyarin's guidance, placing 8th in singles in the Under-17 national Championship and 5th in doubles. He also placed 6th in the Under-19 national Championship and won the Under-17 Mid-Atlantic Juniors 2005 Triple Crown, winning singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

After undergoing strenuous physical preparation for badminton, including weight lifting and sprints, You resents the perception that badminton players are not athletic. He spends 15 hours a week during the school year – which represents a larger investment of time than any school sport – training for three to four tournaments a year.

Athleticism is a must on a twenty-two by forty foot court that features players hitting birdies up to 206 miles per hour. You himself is able to serve up to 176 mph. He credits his cat-like reflexes for placing him in the top 50 of all adults in the United States.

Although he has been highly successful in his sport, You does not plan to play badminton professionally and says that his involvement with the game will most likely diminish as he grows older.



Jana Qiao

Not your average LHS badminton player: You takes to the air.